

COBRA

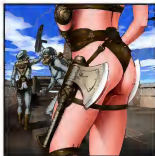
Magic Doll!

THE SPACE PIRATE



BUICHI TERASAWA

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We're
starting to
see Slave
Island.

















We haven't had many female slaves come in lately...



That must be the key to the treasure house...

Gah hah hah. Find some girls. Girls from this planet will earn us a fortune.

Say that one more time, and I'll twist your head off your neck.

Th... that wasn't me.

What did you say...!?

Why is it that Longans all look like doofuses? This one especially.



He was saying
you're like a dino-
saur. You're huge
but you have a tiny
brain.



It... it was
the guy
behind me.

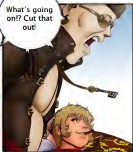
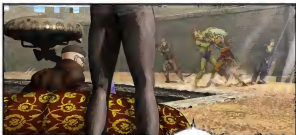
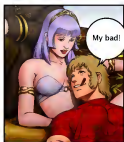


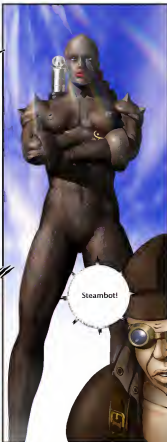
Hey, you... what
were you saying
about me to that
guy?

Well, he was just
saying that he
likes chicken. He
said you would
probably taste
good deep fried.



















How about you and I team up? I'll let you in through here.

You took the key to the treasure house from Mashad, didn't you?



Well, what do you say!? There's no time!



You're after the Scroll of Mara, aren't you? I know where it is. How about an even split?

I'm a hired prison guard. My name is Zita.

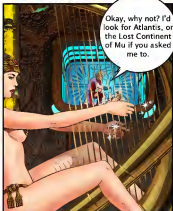




There's something I want you to find, Cobra.



I don't need a partner.



Okay, why not? I'd look for Atlantis, or the Lost Continent of Mu if you asked me to.



All right, what if I just took a quarter?



The Scroll of Mara.
It's a legendary map showing the location of the Magic Spring.



Planet Mahadoma... The entire planet is said to be ruled by the power of magic...

The Scroll of Mara...! Where can I find it?

On Planet Mahadoma.



I want you to steal it from Slave Island in Mahadoma.

You're asking a man who's wanted by the Galaxy Patrol. It must be a tricky job. So where's the scroll?



I'll erase your criminal history from the Galaxy Patrol's data systems...!

Slave Island...! That's a Pirate Guild fortress... I'm gonna be risking my life. The reward better be something big.



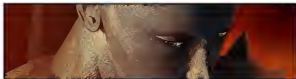




Huh?









A...
a Psychogun...!

That's Cobra
the pirate!





He's
gone...!



Huh...!?





He's headed
for the
treasure
house!



What's
this...!?

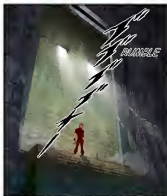


Huh!?



Oh, I see. If I try
to put the key in,
that will come
down and skewer
me!









Come on, don't say that. I can help you out.

I don't remember agreeing to partner up with you.



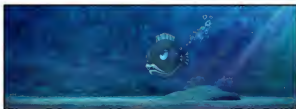
In exchange, I guide him because he doesn't have much of a brain... we have a kind of symbiotic relationship.

He and I are completely separate beings. I need to be in water. He provides me limbs for when I'm on land.



Just wait. I'll show you the treasure.













The Scroll of
Mara can
change
shape.

But where's
the scroll...!?
I don't see
one here.



This planet
doesn't obey
the laws of
nature.

Who's gonna
tame a wild
dragon?!



Be careful. Don't
drop your weap-
ons in the water.
A spell will be
cast on them.



If you startle it,
it will show its
true form.



Water holds
the most
powerful kind
of magic on
this planet.



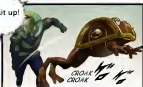
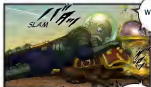
The sucker
turned itself
into a goblet.

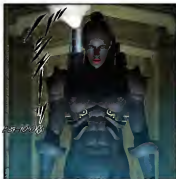
Hey, the
scroll!!



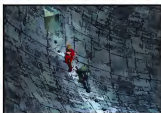
Get the
scroll. Zita!















Now don't say that. You need friends in times like these. For emotional support.





Wooooah!

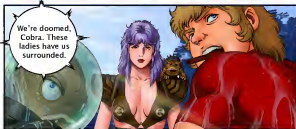


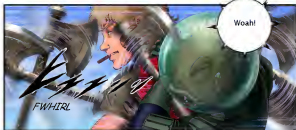
Get back
to your
positions!

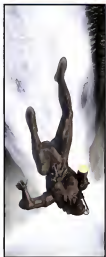


They fell to
the bottom...
They're dead.











You saved us, but... who are you?



Man... she just wouldn't quit.



It's a pleasure, Mario. I'm Zita.



That's Mario, the Puppetteer...! He's my friend.



That's not Mario.



Tsk, this girl's cold as ice.













Not only did you
fail to notice...
you let it get
stolen.



Lord Khan,
please...
Have
mercy!



You had the
Map of Mara,
Mashad...



I had no idea it
got mixed in
with the
jewels...!

That map... it
has the ability
to change its
form...



You know very
well Mashad...
The Pirate Guild
does not listen to
excuses.





The fate of
the Guild
depends
on it.

Retrieve
the map.



Search every
corner of this
planet!

Send out the
entire fleet!



Of course.
I hid it in
this
forest.



You got a
spaceship to
take us back,
right?



All right. We got
the map, so let's
bounce!



You're kidding,
right? All the
Galaxy Patrol
asked me to do
was to steal the
map.



Well, the
plan has
changed.

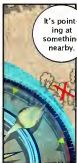


Conning a
conman... huh?
That's
a first-rate
cop.



What?!

But we aren't
going back
until we find
the Magic
Spring.



It's pointing at something nearby.



It's supposed to be in this forest....

There's a compass on this map.



Ah, ease up. The Magic Spring is close, anyway.



Uh... You know, I mean... just curious.

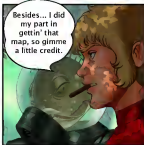


How much are we gettin' paid for this?

Hey, uhh... I don't wanna interrupt, but...



Nah, giving you credit would cost too much money.



Besides... I did my part in gettin' that map, so gimme a little credit.













Only this planet, Mahadoma, remains out of our grasp.

Our Guild has had total control of all but one of the thirteen planets in this solar system.



That's why we must find the Magic Spring of Mara, and destroy it!



If we cannot reign supreme over this planet... the other planets might revolt once again!



But... Lord Mega Khan... The battle-ships and tanks... Our mechanized units are turning into dragons and monsters!

They gradually begin to move around freely and develop their own will! Modern weaponry is useless here...









Xanadu is not a robot.





If we go east from here, there'll be an oasis. The mark is right there!



No doubt. According to the map, the Magic Spring is right around here.



On top of that, I heard this desert is swarming with giant, meter-long scorpions.



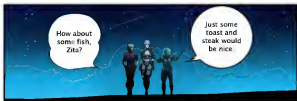
If that oasis isn't there, we'll all get fried by the sun when it rises.



Yeah, thanks for telling me that. Got any more neat stories?



And there are also giant antlions in the quicksand... And the sandstorms... Oh God, the sandstorms...!





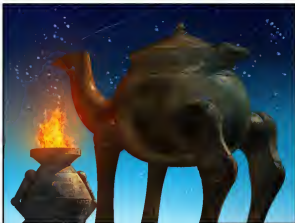
Now it's pointing
northeast...
What's with this
map...?!



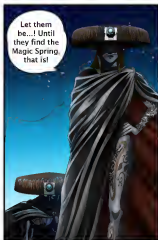
What's going
on...!? The
mark is dis-
appearing
again...!



Hm...?!













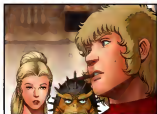


No, you idiot! Xanadu was my master-piece!











You're famous
wherever you
go.



I'd watch
your back.

You may have
changed your
face, but that
gun on your
left arm is a
dead giveaway.

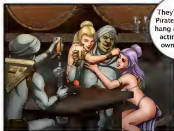


Don't sweat
it... No one
can tell from
that face.



Posters of
you are
plastered all
over this
town.





They're from the
Pirate Guild. They
hang around town
acting like they
own the place.



Check it out,
that table
there...



Cobra,
look!



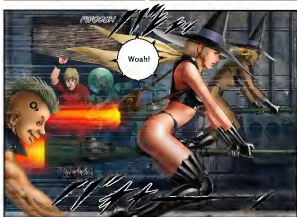
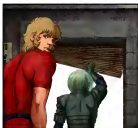
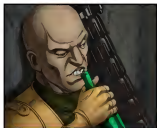
And those
sketchballs over
there... Probably
bounty hunters.



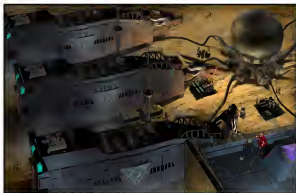
Well, time
to hit the
road.

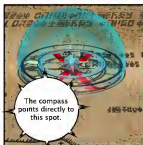


The Magic
Spring is in
this town.



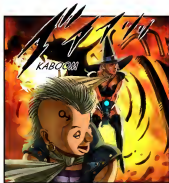
















It's pointing
straight at
them!



The
Compass
needle...!



I guess those
girls have
something to
do with the
Magic Spring.



Zital Mario!
We rendez-
vous at the
plaza in the
morning!



All right,
then. I'll see
if I can tail
her!

DASH





Hi Depot,
fill me up,
will ya?



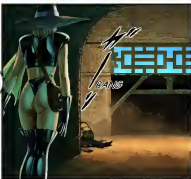
Oh hey
there,
Lanal!

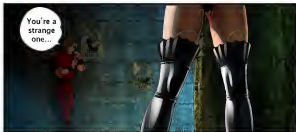


Thought
you'd be
coming
soon...
We've been
waiting.



Bounty
hunters...!

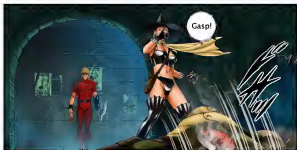


















You're Cobra the pirate! They say you annihilated an entire Guild army corps single-handedly...!



Cobra...! Right... I heard that Cobra changed his appearance.



So what? You want my autograph?



Be careful. The Guild is looking for you.

Wait.
Cobra!

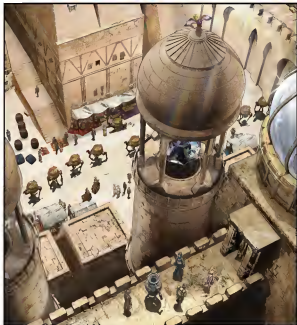


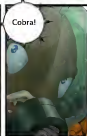
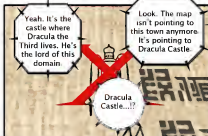
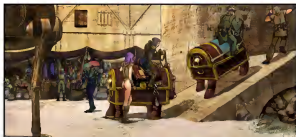
Sounds good. Call me when you graduate from school.

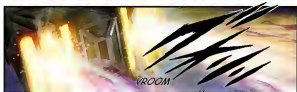


Take me with you! I'll fight with you.















The compass is pointing to the girl...



What's this...?!



It was pointing to this girl...!

I see now... it wasn't pointing to the gas station earlier...



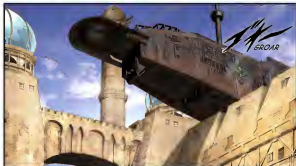
Look up.

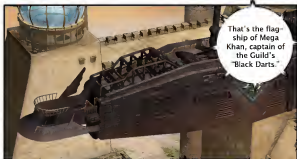
I don't know who you people are, but you'd better run.



It looks like we need this girl to take us to Dracula Castle, Cobra.











I'm the one
they're looking
for. I blew up
their supply base
last night.



Damn!
They're
looking for
us.



Find them!
The guerrilla
fighters are
still lurking in
this town.

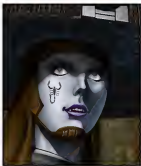


He'll save us the trouble. We can always kill him afterwards.









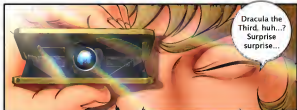




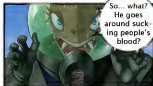
A floating castle with a vampire theme. The castle is built on a dark, jagged rock island that floats in a sky filled with white and grey clouds. The castle itself has a central tower with a large, ornate, golden dome. Two smaller towers flank the central one, each with a similar but smaller dome. The castle's walls are a dark, textured grey. At the base of the central tower, where it meets the rock, there is a large, open mouth with sharp, white fangs, giving the castle a vampire-like appearance. The overall style is that of a comic book illustration.

He's
a descendant of
the vampire...
He's Dracula
the Third!

He came from
Earth. He's from
some place called
Transylvania.



Dracula the Third, huh...?
Surprise surprise...



So... what?
He goes around sucking people's blood?

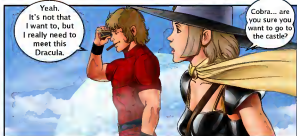


Who would have thought that the grandson of a vampire would build a castle on this planet...?



...then he turns them into his own zombie army

It's not just that. He abducts people and kills them...



Yeah.
It's not that I want to, but I really need to meet this Dracula.

Cobra... are you sure you want to go to the castle?





Don't
move. It's
bio-
forming.



Wooaaah!



ASHOOT



Anti-magic
powder.
I use it on
my broom,
too.

What's
that
powder?



Phew...! Me-
chanical stuff
really do come
alive on this
planet, huh?



The magic is
especially
strong around
here, so be
careful.



Take some.
It'll come in
handy.









If you kill it,
we'll drop head
first into the
ground!

Don't do
it, Cobra!



Take this,
you freak!



Damn.
Doesn't this
thing have
seat belts?





Aaahhhhh!







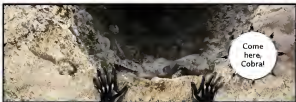










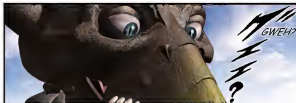


















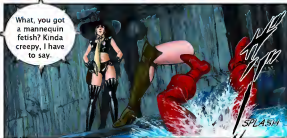
If he's still alive,
he's probably
heading towards
that Dracula
Castle.



Lana and I,
along with
pieces of the
puppet
Xanadu...

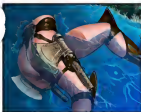
...went falling
down a deep,
deep hole...!







Xanadu
...!?



What is it,
Cobra? You
don't like real
women?



And there's a
perfectly cute,
sexy, and
living girl right
here!



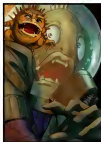
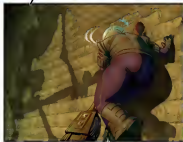
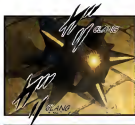
If we follow
this waterway,
we should be
able to reach
Dracula
Castle.

What a
jerk. What-
ever, just
follow me.



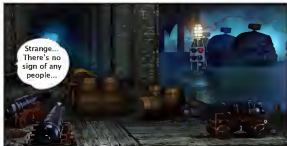
I do. Just not
you.











Strange...
There's no
sign of any
people...



That makes
sense. The
simpler the
object, the less
it's affected by
magic.



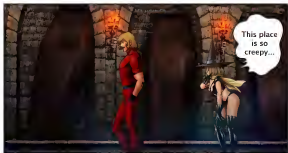
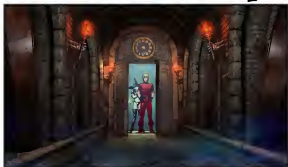
This planet is
covered in
magic, so
chemical
weapons are
useless.

But what an
old-fashioned
cannon...!





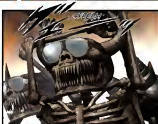














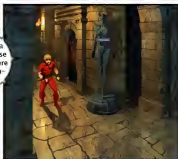
Cobra...!



I'm gonna go
look for
Dracula.



Who woulda
thought those
skeletons were
militant non-
smokers?



I should have
just blown
some cigar
smoke in their
faces.







Huh...? It won't open!



Is that you, Cobra?



RATTLE



No!



Don't come any closer!

RATTLE

RATTLE





Dracula the Third. This must be his bed.



Sorry to disturb you. I just came to pay my respects.



Oof!



Who dares
disturb me
when I'm
tanning?





Dracula getting
a tan...? This
can't be real.



Haha... nice
teeth! You
could be on
a toothpaste
commercial!



What if
it is?



All right, sorry for
waking you. Get
some more sleep.
It's not time for
breakfast yet.



I think I'll
have your
blood for
dinner.



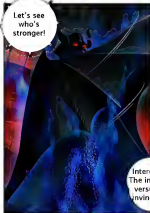
Actually, I'm
starting to
feel hungry







Let's see
who's
stronger!



I heard Cobra
the pirate was
invincible...

Interesting.
The immortal
versus the
invincible...



But
how...!?

I can only hit
him when he
materializes...!

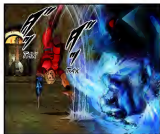


I'm only
human. I don't
think we
qualify for the
same division
in this cham-
pionship.



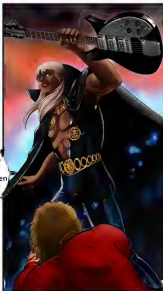
Huh...!?
What's
that...?







Why...? Why
doesn't he
shoot me when
I'm vulner-
able...!?



His
favorite
guitar...



The Ricken-
backer
325...!



Eh,
forget it.

Cobra...
Why did
you come
to this
castle?



You're not
a bad guy if
you like John
Lennon.



I came to see you.
The Scroll of
Mara... the map
of the Magic Spring
led me here.







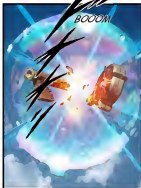
Lord Khan,
Dracula the
Third doesn't
seem to be in
the castle at this
moment.

Destroy
it.

The Curse of
Absence is
cast. We can't
approach the
castle.



Look at
that...!





Looks like
we have
visitors.

What the hell
was that!?



Guess who's
coming to
dinner...!





You don't have to think about defying our Guild, either.

That's fine. Quiet time to yourself... without having to think about anything...

I'm just dropping in... It's pretty rude of you to pretend to be away.

Everyone needs a little alone time without being bothered by anyone.

Is anybody else here?

That's none of your business.

That must be Captain Mega Khan of the Pirate Guild's Black Darts!



Search every nook and cranny!



Search the castle!



What are they looking for?



Just a hunch...!

What makes you think there are guerrilla fighters in this castle, Lord Khan?

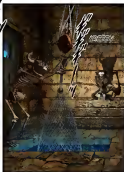
The Pirate Guild's Black Darts! They're causing a ruckus.











Hey man!
I don't eat
fish!





PSHOO

I have no idea,
but I think I just
found a way out
of here.



How did
Xanadu get
here?



I'm
fixing
Xanadu.

What are
you
doing?



Continued to Vol.2

COBRA: Magic Doll Vol.1

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